



**Innovative Collaborative Efforts  
To Reduce Urban Violence:**

**Shooting Task Forces  
and  
Cold Case Squads**

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*October 25, 2012*

## DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE



The Shooting Task Forces/Cold Case Units are part of a **two-pronged, collaborative approach** to address urban violence.

- 1. Effective law enforcement** to “get the bad guys off the streets”
- 2. Preventive programs** to address the conditions that contribute to urban violence

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The shooting task forces are built on the highly successful cold case model – bring together the resources of law enforcement agencies at all levels of government to work collaboratively.



## The Collaborative Approach

- Recognizes that crime does not stop at the city/town line
- Produces maximum benefit from minimal resources contributed by partners
- Provides excellent training opportunities for municipal officers
- Allows collaboration with prosecutors to provide stronger cases for prosecution



## SHOOTING TASK FORCES

The shooting task force concept rests on the understanding that urban gun violence often is driven by a vicious cycle of retaliatory shootings.

Experienced urban police officers recognize that shootings – even those that cause no fatality or injury – often generate a responsive shootings against a rival gang, crew, or loose association of neighborhood groups.

Unfortunately, because of the volume of crime in some major cities, police departments are not able to aggressively and thoroughly investigate non-fatal shootings.

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The shooting task force then investigates those shootings as aggressively as possible in an effort to arrest the shooters and their accomplices, thereby breaking the cycle of retaliatory shootings that likely would follow and removing dangerous persons from the community.

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## Hartford Shooting Task Force

### **State Government**

Office of the Chief State's Attorney; Office of the State's Attorney, Judicial District of Hartford; Department of Correction, Connecticut State Police; Office of Adult Probation; Board of Pardons and Paroles

### **Municipal Government**

Hartford Police Department, East Hartford Police Department; Manchester Police Department; West Hartford Police Department; Wethersfield Police Department

### **Federal Government**

Federal Bureau of Investigation; Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; Drug Enforcement Administration



## Hartford Shooting Task Force

- Established in July 2011
- Fifty-one fewer gunshot victims and 11 fewer homicides in first year of operation compared to previous year
- 214 felony arrests; 80 arrest warrants; 50 search and seizure warrants in the first year of operation
- Seventy-six firearms seized in the first year

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## New Haven Shooting Task Force

**Established January 2012**

### **State Government**

Office of the Chief State's Attorney; Office of the State's Attorney, Judicial District of New Haven; State of Connecticut Department of Correction; State of Connecticut Office of Adult Probation

### **Municipal Government**

New Haven Police Department; Hamden Police Department; West Haven Police Department

### **Federal Government**

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

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## Greater New Britain Shooting Task Force

**Established October 2012**

### **State Government**

Office of the Chief State's Attorney; Office of the State's Attorney, Judicial District of New Britain; Connecticut Department of Correction; Central Connecticut State University Police Department; Office of Adult Probation; Connecticut State Police

### **Municipal Government**

New Britain Police Department; Berlin Police Department; Bristol Police Department; Plainville Police Department; Newington Police Department; Southington Police Department

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## COLD CASE SQUADS

An estimated **900 homicides** in Connecticut are unsolved but within the time frame where an arrest is still considered possible.

The Division of Criminal Justice coordinates the efforts of two squads that re-investigate cold case homicides with the assistance of the Connecticut State Police, municipal police departments, and the Department of Correction.



## Greater Hartford Cold Case Unit

- Formed in May 1998
- Since inception has made 34 arrests in the deaths of 24 victims whose deaths were previously unsolved
- Twenty-nine of those arrested have been convicted
- Arrests have been made in cases more than a quarter century after the crime was committed
- Assisted the Innocence Project on investigations that led to exoneration of two individuals and convictions of guilty parties

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## Greater Hartford Cold Case Unit

- Office of the Chief State's Attorney
- Office of the State's Attorney - Judicial District of Hartford
- State of Connecticut Department of Correction
- Bloomfield Police Department
- East Hampton Police Department
- East Windsor Police Department
- Farmington Police Department
- Hartford Police Department
- Wethersfield Police Department
- Windsor Police Department



## Southeast Connecticut Cold Case Unit

- Formed in October 2009
- Five people arrested in the homicides of five people whose deaths were previously unsolved
- Conviction in one case that went to trial; others still pending

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## Southeast Connecticut Cold Case Unit

- Town of Groton Police Department
- City of Groton Police Department
- New London Police Department
- Norwich Police Department
- Stonington Police Department
- Waterford Police Department
- State of Connecticut Department of Correction
- Connecticut State Police Eastern District Major Crime Squad
- Office of the Chief State's Attorney
- Office of the State's Attorney - Judicial District of New London
- Office of the State's Attorney - Judicial District of Windham